Ban on illegal child adoption

2281. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to stop illegal child adoption to control human trafficking in the garb of adoption;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to control exploitation of children for pornography?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) A mechanism is in existence to stop illegal child adoption. The Guidelines on adoption issued by the Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and its Amendment Act, 2006 are the available instruments for this purpose. All adoption related issues are governed under the above said Guidelines and provisions of the Act.

(c) An important objective of the National Plan of Action for Children, 2005 of the Government of India is to protect children against sexual and physical abuse, pornography, etc. The provisions under Law are as follows:

–As per Chapter XI, Para 67 of the Indian Information Technology Act, 2000, the Government of India clearly considers online pornography is a punishable offence.

–The Indian Penal Code, 1860, Section 293 specifies, in clear terms, the sale, etc. of obscene objects to minors a punishable offence.

–As per Section 23 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, whoever assaults, abandons, exposes or willfully neglects the juvenile or procures him to be assaulted, abandoned, exposes or neglected etc., shall be punishable.

Action on initiatives of Planning Commission

2282. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is aware of the initiatives suggested by the Planning Commission in the Approach Paper for Eleventh Plan in para 5.4 "Gender Equity" on P.No. 86 of the report dated 9th December, 2006; and

(b) if so, the action proposed by her Ministry to check violence against some pregnant women, creches at work places, clean cooking fuels etc. so that women in general can have dignified living?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The areas such as violence against pregnant women, creches at work place, clean cooking etc. fall under the mandate of different Ministries/Departments. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is pursuing with Ministries/ Departments to engender and incorporate gender concerns in their policies and programmes. For this purpose the Ministry organizes workshops and training programmes on tools and strategies of Gender Budgeting to the Gender Budget cells set up in various Ministries/Departments.

Malnutrition and starvation in Vidarbha region

†2283. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of National Human Rights Commission has been sent to investigate the deaths caused by malnutrition and starvation in the tribal areas of Yawatmal district of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to check the deaths being caused by malnutrition in the children of the tribals in Vidarbha region; and

(d) the number of the tribals and their children died due to malnutrition and starvation till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The National Human Rights Commission has deputed its Special Rapporteur in April, 2007 to visit the tribal areas in Maharashtra and to conduct a detailed study of the current position of food supply and malnutrition in those areas and also to make a study on how the various schemes are initiated by the Tribal Development Department, Government of Maharashtra to solve the problems of starvation and infant mortality. The Rapporteur was asked to submit his report within 12 week's time.

(b) The report of Special Rapporteur is yet to be received.

(c) The Government is implementing a number of schemes which directly or indirectly improve the nutritional status of women and children. Some of these are as under:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme (Ministry of Women and Child Development);

The steps taken in the recent past to increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under ICDS are:

(1) The scheme has been expanded twice in the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(2) The Government has doubled the financial norms for supplementary nutrition from Re.1 to Rs.2/- per beneficiary per day.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.